

# Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society

EST. 1974

[www.eaars.com](http://www.eaars.com)

INC.



[facebook.com/groups/eaars](https://facebook.com/groups/eaars)

Club Address: EAARS, PO Box 398, Solomon, AZ 85551



*September, 2020*

## JOIN EAARS on Facebook

EAARS has a presence on Facebook and you are invited to **JOIN** the page. This is a great media to quickly share news, photos and events that are EAARS related or might be interesting to the members. If you utilize "Notifications" on the EAARS Facebook page, you can receive club updates AS THEY HAPPEN.

To reach the page, please visit **facebook.**

**com/groups/eaars** and **JOIN** the page. You must have a Facebook account to be part of the EAARS group.



## EAARS Open Repeaters

**PL 141.3** unless noted otherwise

**Echolink:** 614350 **IRLP:** 7787

**Heliograph Peak at Safford, AZ:**

146.860, 440.700 Linked

146.900, 447.8250 Not Linked

**Jacks Peak at Silver City, NM:**

145.210 Linked

**West Peak at Ft Thomas, AZ:**

145.350 Access to link to network

**Pinal Peak at Globe, AZ:**

145.410 Linked

**South Mt at Alpine, AZ:**

145.270 Linked

**Caballo Mt at TorC, NM:**

145.470 Linked

**Greens Peak at Show Low, AZ**

146.700 Linked

**Little Florida at Deming, NM:**

147.060 Linked

**Mule Mt at Bisbee, AZ:**

147.080 Linked

**Mt Lemmon at Tucson, AZ**

147.160 Linked

**Guthrie Peak at Clifton, AZ:**

147.280 Linked

# Gals on the Air!

**EST. June 2015**

Calling all Gals of any class ... Join us every Monday night for the  
**Gals Night Net @ 7:30 pm (AZ) on the EAARS system!**

**Facebook.com/groups/galsnightnet**

## Upcoming Events

*Would You like to see your event posted for the membership to see?  
Email your information to [emberfire@cox.net](mailto:emberfire@cox.net).*

Sunday - October 18..... Making Strides Breast Cancer - Angie, N7EMB  
October 24 ..... Copafest - Maricopa  
Saturday - Oct 31... ..... Tucson Walk to end Alzheimer - Angie, N7EMB  
November 7 .....Cochise Hamfest - Sierra Vista  
November 14 ..... Oro Valley ARC Hamfest - Marana  
  
Jan 17-23, 2021 .....Quartzfest - Kristyn Weed KR1SS  
April 10, 2021 ..... El Tour de Tucson

Did you know that you can see the Public Service Opportunities on [soazhamservice.net](http://soazhamservice.net)? The events are posted by dates and who leads them. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please feel free to contact them.

### WEEKLY EAARS' NETS

**Every day:**

*Down Under Net - 4:15 am*

*Weather Net - 5:30 am*

**Sunday:**

*EAARS Net - 7:00 pm*

**Monday:**

*Gals Night Net - 7:30 pm*

**Wednesday:**

*Skywarn Net - During Monsoon, Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm,  
Off Season, every third Wednesday of month at 7:30 pm*

**Saturday:**

*ERC (Emergency Response Communications) Net -8:45 am ,  
2nd Saturday of the month (20-25 min duration)*



# EAARS Officers and Staff

## Board Officers

President	Dave Wells	N7AM
Vice President	Dan Quaintance	AF7EF
Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Griggs	N5BG

## Staff

Site Trustee	Joe Montierth	K7JEM
Net Manager	Chris Buchanan	N7JND
Newsletter Editor	Angie Buchanan	N7EMB

## Net Control Operators

Rick W8YBM	1st Sunday
Angie N7EMB	2nd-4th Sunday
Chris N7JND	3rd-5th Sunday

## ARRL RADIO CONTESTS

Sept 12-14 September VHF  
 Sept 13-14 EME - 2,3 GHz & Up  
 Sept 19-20 10 GHz & Up - Round 2

For details on all ARRL contests and for non-ARRL contests,  
 visit <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## New EAARS Members!

Steven	W7WIL
Ross	K7RYF
Larry	K7RFX
Quentin	KC7VOU
Bob	NA6AF
Mike	KJ7QCY
Andrew	W7SVT



# **EAARS POLICY REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Hams working on our repeater sites are unpaid volunteers, and maintaining our sites is to the advantage of everyone. These efforts are greatly appreciated by all EAARS members. Occasionally the job turns into an all day job far from home. We believe that volunteers should be compensated for meals and fuel costs in these circumstances.

## **Meals:**

When your volunteer effort lasts 6 hours or more (including travel and time on the site working) EAARS will compensate you for a meal, if requested, unless an officer is present and provides you a meal. Limit \$10 per person. Additional meals may be provided for extremely long work days exceeding 12 hours.

## **Travel to sites:**

Please try to carpool as much as possible. EAARS will compensate you for gas if requested. The rate is \$0.20 per mile (or actual fuel cost if an officer buys the fuel), for all vehicles used to transport volunteers. If for an example, you drove 10 miles to meet up with somebody who drove the last 20 miles, you could get \$4 (10 miles to the meetup and 10 miles home) and the person you rode with would get \$8 (20 miles each way).

Requests for compensation should be sent to Larry, N5BG our treasurer.

Please explain what you are asking for (20 miles at \$0.20 = \$4 plus meal at \$10= \$14). Also include the date and site name. No receipts are needed.

**Note:** This policy only applies to maintenance trips that have been previously scheduled and approved by at least one EAARS officer, to properly account for the number of vehicles and volunteers involved. All requests for compensation must be made within 60 days of work performed.

## **Greens Peak Repairs Completed**

On August 27th, Larry, N5BG and Joe, K7JEM took a trip to Greens Peak to replace the repeater. The repeater was transmitting, but was having major issues receiving a signal on its input frequency. We are glad to report, that the Greens Peak repeater is now back in full operation and signal reports have been great from those who use it.

Many Thanks to Larry & Joe for volunteering their day to make this happen. And many THANKS to all you EAARS members. Your dues pay for these repairs so ALL of us can enjoy the system.



## **Mt Lemmon Repeater Maintenance**

by Curt K7ZOO

A group of five EAARS members worked on the Mt Lemmon repeater site on August 15th to significantly improve the guying system.

A bit of background information is helpful to understand the significance of this work. Prior to climbing a tower, a careful inspection of the guying system is warranted. Of keen interest is the "point of daylight," i.e. the location of the steel hoop that first comes out the concrete pad. At this location a perfect combination of moisture and air is present, accelerating corrosion of the surface. One of the pads at the Mt Lemmon repeater site was covered with what could be described as "forest debris," a combination of dirt & pine needles, kept in shade by overgrowth of brush. Not only does this arrangement promote corrosion, it also prevents climbers from positively inspecting the point of daylight.

In mid-August then, this group cleared brush, dirt, and pine needles from two concrete pads which anchor the guy wires. Trenches were dug around two guying concrete pads to encourage water to flow around -- not over -- the concrete pads. On all three guying locations surface rust was removed from guying hardware, the surface was prepared with a corrosion inhibitor, and a cold galvanizing paint was sprayed on.

As additional background information, each guy wire (six total) is separately grounded to eliminate static electricity build-up on the wires. The previously-installed solid wires had vibrated, fatigued, and broken in numerous locations. Stranded #8 wire was installed in all locations.

Ralph gave a tour of the facility, which was appreciated by two members who had not previously visited the repeater site. Curt brought along portable satellite gear and both KG7QCW & N7NBV practiced tracking a transponder satellite, managing both antenna pointing / rotation and Doppler correction.

Many thanks to

Tom AB7IC	tirelessly installing ground wires
Ralph W7HSG	providing technical expertise, tools, and a tour of the facility,
WATER!	
Tom KG7QCW	providing landscaping tools, manual labor to remove brush and
prep metal surfaces	
Ken N7NBV	removing brush, prepping metal surfaces, DONUTS and COFFEE!
Curt K7ZOO	project coordination, satellite demo
Greg KB1MEZ	offering to come up, but had to cancel at the last minute





# **Radio Equipment Insurance...**

## **Is It Necessary?**

### **It Depends...**

The answer is "It Depends". There is never-ending confusion about insurance in general. When it comes to protecting ham radio equipment, there's confusion heaped upon confusion.

All insurance is simply a method of sharing your risks of loss with others who have similar exposures. Homeowners with other homeowners; car owners share with other car owners, etc. These risks are transferred to an insurance company which acts as a clearinghouse; they accept premium and pay losses. They also write the insurance contract which spells out what is covered under various circumstances and how much they'll pay. The cost of the insurance is proportional to the amount of risk the insurance company assumes.

### **Protecting your Ham Gear**

Now, let's talk about protecting your ham gear. Many people think that if they have a homeowner's or tenant's policy they're covered. Well the answer is "It Depends." The answer is yes if your equipment is at home and you have a loss like a fire or burglary. On the other hand, if you slip and pour a cup of coffee through you brand new transceiver and it take 20 minutes for the smoke to clear from the shack, the answer is no. The same goes for the mobile radio installed in you car. The typical homeowner's and for that matter, automobile policy provide no coverage for radios installed in your car, other than the factory equipment. In other cases, the answer is maybe. Some homeowner's policies are broad enough to cover losses to towers and antennas, but others aren't. To verify coverage, make a list of your questions and talk to your insurance agent.

### **What about Deductibles?**

Let's talk about deductibles. People are always interested in the amount of their deductible. They're always too high as far as the insurance buyer is concerned - especially when it's time to file a claim for your \$499 radio and you find out that the deductible on your homeowners policy is \$500. You might ask why insurance companies don't sell policies without deductibles. There are lots of reasons but a couple of the most prominent are that a no-deductible policy would be more expensive than the average person is willing to pay and also, the cost of adjusting all the little claims would add huge amounts of overhead to the insurance company, which would get passed along to you, the insurance buyers. More about deductibles below...

*Continued on Page 7*

# Radio Equipment Insurance... Is It Necessary?

*Continued from Page 6*

## **Homeowners Insurance vs Ham Equipment Policy**

If you think that your present insurance may not be meeting your needs, consider a specific Ham Equipment policy. The policy is designed to fill in the gaps left by homeowner's and automobile policies. Coverage is provided on an "All Risks" basis which means that virtually any physical loss or damage that your equipment may suffer is covered, unless it is specifically excluded. It covers your equipment wherever it may be – at Field Day, installed in your car, in a canoe, anywhere! Also, a specific Radio Equipment policy will most likely have a much lower deductible than you homeowner's. Homeowners' policies have at least a \$100 deductible, most have a \$500 deductible. Ham Equipment policies typically have a \$50 deductible. It may be worth buying the Radio Equipment policy just to cover the potential difference in deductibles. Finally, the HRIA amateur radio equipment program can extend coverage to include Mechanical Breakdown and protection for Towers and Antennas. Mechanical break down coverage is just not available from the ARRL or any other ham radio insurance program.

This information is printed with permission from Bill – W3WH at [hamradioinsurance.com](http://hamradioinsurance.com). Before choosing any insurance for your Ham Radio gear, please research all possibilities and make wise choices and know what is covered and what is not.

KNOW THE  
**FACTS** ✓





# New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut in October

ARRL - 08/18/2020

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators — the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge (POC) — will debut October 3 - 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. Scoring for the POC, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include National Contest Journal (NCJ) — an ARRL publication — but the POC will not be an official NCJ or ARRL contest.

"NCJ's role is to encourage hams who don't contest to give it a try," NCJ Editor Dr. Scott Wright, KOMD, said. "It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities."

Other sponsors include the UK DX Foundation (CDXC), the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (HARAOA), and the South African Radio League (SARL).

"I think the [POC] steering committee, consisting of both veteran DX contest participants and some of the best portable operators in the world, has come up with something worth giving a go," Howell said. "With this scoring metric, it's more about radiosport than radio gear."

According to the contest rules, scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital. For the 2020 event, the number of transmitters concurrently in use will be restricted to two.

Portable stations may not make use of permanently installed amateur radio equipment or facilities but may use ac mains power. The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square.

Contact Howell for more information.





# The Time Out Timer Setting

(We can never get enough reminders.)

How many of you know what TOT stands for? It's found in most 2 meter and 440 and other radios both HT's and mobiles. If you are not familiar with TOT, get ready, as you are about to know what TOT stands for. TOT stands for Time Out Timer and should be one of the FIRST things that you program in your radio. Since we have a few new Hams operating on EAARS, it's always good to send a reminder. Here it is...

Most modern and many older FM mobiles & HT's, have a TOT setting in their menu. It's extremely important you set this value to 3 minutes for three main reasons which are...

- Save yourself from embarrassment. Stuck mics have great ears. They like to pick up words and other sounds and discussions that you probably don't want to be transmitting. I have heard it all including some great country music and I once heard someone read a credit card number out loud not knowing this was being transmitted. (I'm not kidding).

- Save Your Radio... Nothing burns out a final in a transmitter quicker than one being stuck on for hours. Most mobiles & HT's have very poor duty cycles when it comes to the transmitter being on. The finals can heat up very quickly and even the radio's heat sink can be extremely hot to touch as the heat sink is trying its best to do its job. Don't burn out your radio when the TOT can shut off your transmitter after 3 minutes and won't key up again until the PTT is released and keyed again.

- Stuck mics can tie up a repeater for a long time. Yes, most repeaters themselves have a TOT programmed in them. However, when the repeater times out, it will usually reset in a minute or so and start transmitting the stuck mic again. But keep in mind, when there's a stuck mic on the repeater, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET THRU.

Stuck microphones are pretty much preventable just by setting your Time Out Timer and hanging the microphone up when not in use. It's one of the first things I do when I buy a new radio. If the new radio doesn't have a TOT, I don't buy it. Even our trusty Baofengs have a TOT setting in their menu. Also, put the microphone in its clip when not in use. Don't just throw it down onto the seat. Seats were not designed to be a mic holder. It's just gonna get stuck open when something else is thrown on top of it.

Remember you are responsible for what's being transmitted out of YOUR radio. Take preventable measures to help prevent the stuck open microphone.

# Other Club Stuff

RST holds FREE VE testing on the following dates, 7:00 pm at Biscuits Country Cafe, 7026 E Broadway, Tucson.

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

Due to the health and welfare of our amateur ham radio community, all events have been cancelled or postponed, until further notice, due to the current pandemic we are all experiencing!

Please check with your club to see if the event will be rescheduled. I will try to keep us updated.

**Please keep yourself and your family safe! This pandemic may last a few months! Prayers to all!**

**If you live in the Graham or Greenlee County and are interested in a VE Testing session, please feel free to contact the EAARS President, Dave Wells @ 928-965-8327.**

**Do you have any club news to share?  
It can be posted on this page.  
Send your info to Angie - [emberfire@cox.net](mailto:emberfire@cox.net).**



Cooking up  
Some Magic



# Six Layers and a Chip Dip



*Courtesy of Food Network*

## Ingredients

2 cloves garlic  
2 teaspoons kosher salt  
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 (15-ounce) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
2 tablespoons water  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
2 cups low-fat shredded Cheddar  
2 ripe avocados, preferably Hass  
1 jalapeno, stemmed, finely chopped, (with seeds for more heat)  
2 cups chopped romaine lettuce  
1 1/2 cups nonfat yogurt, preferably Greek  
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, leaves and some stems, roughly chopped, plus more for garnish  
3 ripe medium tomatoes, diced  
5 scallions (white and green), thinly sliced  
Baked tortilla chips, for dipping

*Prep: 15 minutes  
Yield: 8-10 servings*

## Directions

1. On a cutting board, smash the garlic cloves, sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of the salt, and, with the flat side of a large knife, mash and smear the mixture to a coarse paste. Put the garlic, beans, chili powder, water, and olive oil in the bowl of a food processor and blend until smooth. Spread in the bottom of a 2-quart casserole or gratin dish, or in individual sized dishes, as desired.
2. Scatter the cheese over the beans. Halve and seed the avocados, then mash with the jalapeno and another teaspoon of salt in a small bowl. Spread a layer of the avocado over the cheese, and then scatter the lettuce on top.
3. Mix the yogurt with the cilantro and then spread over the lettuce. Add a layer of tomatoes and, finally, scatter the scallions on top. Chill until ready to serve. Garnish with a few cilantro sprigs and serve with baked chips.

kiss the  
cook